

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8678

To establish a global zoonotic disease task force, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 23, 2020

Ms. MENG (for herself and Mr. FORTENBERRY) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To establish a global zoonotic disease task force, and for
other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Global Wildlife Trade
5 Biosecurity Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

7 It shall be the policy of the United States Govern-
8 ment to—

9 (1) support scalable and sustainable availability
10 for local communities of alternative animal and

1 plant-sourced protein in order to minimize human
2 reliance on the live and fresh wildlife trade;

3 (2) support foreign governments to—

4 (A) transition from the sale of such wildlife
5 for human consumption in markets and res-
6 taurants to alternate protein sources; and

7 (B) ban the commercial trade of such wild-
8 life, except for the meat of game species—

9 (i) traded in markets in countries with
10 effective implementation and enforcement
11 of scientifically based, nationally imple-
12 mented policies and legislation for proc-
13 essing, transport, trade, marketing; and

14 (ii) sold after being slaughtered and
15 processed under sanitary conditions; and

16 (3) consider the needs of indigenous people and
17 local communities dependent on such wildlife for nu-
18 tritional needs and food security.

19 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

20 In this Act:

21 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
22 trator” means the Administrator of the United
23 States Agency for International Development.

1 (2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
2 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
3 mittees” means—

4 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and
5 the Committee on Appropriations in the House
6 of Representatives; and

7 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations
8 and the Committee on Appropriations in the
9 Senate.

10 (3) COMMERCIAL WILDLIFE TRADE.—The term
11 “commercial wildlife trade” means trade in wildlife
12 can be considered as commercial when its purpose is
13 to obtain economic benefit, whether in cash or other-
14 wise, and is directed toward sale, resale, exchange,
15 or any other form of economic use or benefit.

16 (4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
17 term “institution of higher education” has the
18 meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the
19 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

20 (5) LIVE WILDLIFE MARKET.—The term “live
21 wildlife market” means a commercial market that
22 sells, processes, or slaughters live or fresh wildlife
23 for human consumption in markets or restaurants,
24 irrespective of whether such wildlife originated in the
25 wild or in a captive situation.

1 (6) ONE HEALTH.—The term “One Health”
2 means a collaborative, multi-sectoral, and trans-dis-
3 ciplinary approach to achieving optimal health out-
4 comes that recognizes the interconnection between—

5 (A) people, wildlife, and plants; and

6 (B) the environment shared by such peo-

7 ple, wildlife, and plants.

(7) OUTBREAK.—The occurrence of disease cases in excess of normal expectancy.

16 (9) SPILLOVER EVENTS.—The term “spillover
17 events” means the transmission of a pathogen from
18 one species to another.

(10) TASK FORCE.—The term “Task Force” means the Global Zoonotic Disease Task Force established under section 6(a).

1 (12) WILDLIFE.—The term “wildlife” means
2 mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians of wild or-
3 igin, whether removed directly from the wild or born
4 or bred in captivity.

5 (13) ZOONOTIC DISEASE.—The term “zoonotic
6 disease” means any disease that is naturally trans-
7 missible between vertebrate wildlife and humans.

8 **SEC. 4. FINDINGS.**

9 Congress makes the following findings:

10 (1) The majority of recent emerging infectious
11 diseases have originated in wildlife.

12 (2) There is a rise in zoonotic spillover events
13 and outbreaks of such diseases.

14 (3) This rise in such spillover events and out-
15 breaks relates to the increased interaction between
16 human and wildlife.

17 (4) There is a rise in interaction between
18 human and wildlife related to deforestation, habitat
19 degradation, and expansion into the habitat of such
20 wildlife.

21 (5) A serious risk factor for spillover events re-
22 lates to the collection, production, commercial trade,
23 and sale of wildlife for human consumption.

24 (6) Such a risk factor is increased if it involves
25 wildlife that—

1 (A) does not ordinarily interact with hu-
2 mans; or

3 (B) lives under a stressful condition as
4 such condition exacerbates the shedding of
5 zoonotic pathogens.

6 (7) Markets for such wildlife to be sold for
7 human consumption are found in many countries.

8 (8) In some local, rural communities, such wild-
9 life is the only accessible source of high quality nu-
10 trition.

11 (9) The public health emergency is an example
12 of the human, economic, and security costs of global
13 pandemics and regional epidemics of zoonotic dis-
14 eases and emerging infectious diseases.

15 (10) The public health emergency may result
16 in—

17 (A) trillions of dollars in damage to the
18 economy of the United States; and

19 (B) hundreds of thousands of deaths of
20 citizens.

21 (11) PREDICT and PREDICT–2, previous
22 zoonotic disease prevention programs, resulted in co-
23 operation over 10 years with more than 60 countries
24 to strengthen zoonotic pathogen surveillance and

1 identified at least 931 novel virus species from
2 145,000 samples of wildlife, livestock, and humans.

3 SEC. 5. UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD LIVE AND FRESH
4 WILDLIFE MARKETS FOR HUMAN CONSUMP-
5 TION.

6 The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Ad-
7 ministrator and the Director of the United States Fish
8 and Wildlife Service, shall work with governments, multi-
9 lateral entities, intergovernmental organizations, inter-
10 national partners, and non-governmental organizations—

(B) detecting and deterring the illegal import, transit, and export of wildlife;

(C) strengthening such programs to assist countries through legal reform; and

(D) improving information sharing and enhancing capabilities of participating foreign governments;

(A) supporting targeted social marketing campaigns to change the behavior of wildlife consumers; and

(B) increasing consumer access to affordable, culturally appropriate, and sustainable produced alternative animal source foods, in areas where wildlife is a dietary necessity;

13 (4) to minimize the interaction between humans
14 and wildlife in order to prevent the degradation of
15 intact ecosystems with the goal of protecting and re-
16 storing the integrity of such ecosystems by—

17 (A) supporting Indigenous People and local
18 communities to continue their effective steward-
19 ship of their intact traditional territories;

(B) supporting establishment and effective management of protected areas, prioritizing highly intact areas;

(C) halting industrial scale degradation, deforestation, and fragmentation of intact ecosystems, including by private sector entities and

1 multilateral development financial institutions;
2 and

3 (D) halting extractive industries practices
4 that encroach into nature strongholds and in-
5 crease human-wildlife interfaces where spillover
6 events occur and can result in zoonotic disease
7 outbreaks;

8 (5) offering alternative livelihood and worker
9 training programs and enterprise development for
10 local communities previously engaged in the com-
11 mercial wildlife trade for human consumption; and

12 (6) ensuring that the rights of Indigenous Peo-
13 ples and local communities, are respected and their
14 authority to exercise these rights is protected.

15 **SEC. 6. GLOBAL ZOONOTIC DISEASE TASK FORCE.**

16 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a task
17 force to be known as the “Global Zoonotic Disease Task
18 Force”.

19 (b) DUTIES OF TASK FORCE.—The duties of the
20 Task Force shall be to—

21 (1) ensure an integrated response to the early
22 detection, prevention, preparedness, and response
23 across the Federal Government and globally to a
24 global zoonotic disease spillover or outbreak;

- 1 (2) develop and publish, on a publicly accessible
2 website, a global biosecurity zoonotic disease plan
3 not later than one year after the date of the enact-
4 ment of this Act that leverages public health, wildlife
5 health, and livestock veterinary expertise to coordi-
6 nate zoonotic disease surveillance internationally, in-
7 cluding support for One Health institutions around
8 the world that can prevent and provide early detec-
9 tion of zoonotic outbreaks; and
- 10 (3) expanding the scope of the implementation
11 of the White House's Global Health Security Strat-
12 egy to more robustly respond to zoonotic disease in-
13 vestigations and outbreaks by establishing a ten-year
14 strategy with specific Federal Government inter-
15 national goals, priorities, and timelines for action,
16 including to—
- 17 (A) recommend policy actions and mecha-
18 nisms in developing countries to reduce the risk
19 of zoonotic disease emergence and transmission,
20 including coordinating a whole of government
21 response to live and fresh wildlife market clo-
22 sures and ending the global trade in live and
23 fresh wildlife for human consumption;

(B) identify new mandates, authorities, and incentives needed to strengthen the global zoonotic disease plan under paragraph (1); and

10 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The members of the task
12 force established pursuant to subsection (a) shall be
13 composed of representatives from each of the fol-
14 lowing agencies:

20 (i) The Animal and Plant Health In-
21 spection Service of the Department of Ag-
22 riculture.

(ii) The Department of Health and Human Services or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

4 (iv) The Department of State or the
5 United States Agency for International
6 Development.

7 (v) The National Security Council.

(B) At least 13 additional members, with at least one from each of the following agencies:

(ii) The Department of Agriculture,

13 (iii) The Department of Defense.

14 (iv) The Department of State.

15 (v) The Environmental Protection
16 Agency.

(vi) The National Science Foundation.

18 (vii) The National Institutes of
19 Health

(viii) The National Institute of Standards and Technology.

22 (ix) The Office of Science and Tech-
23 nology Policy.

24 (x) The United States Agency for
25 International Development.

(xi) The United States Fish and Wild-
life Service.

(xii) U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

(xiii) U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

(3) TERMS.—

20 (d) MEETING.—

21 (1) INITIAL MEETING.—The Task Force shall
22 hold its initial meeting not later than 45 days after
23 the final appointment of all members under sub-
24 section (b)(2).

25 (2) MEETINGS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

6 (e) COMPENSATION.—

7 (1) PROHIBITION OF COMPENSATION.—Except
8 as provided in paragraph (2), members of the Task
9 Force may not receive additional pay, allowances, or
10 benefits by reason of their service on the Task
11 Force.

17 (f) REPORTS.—

1 (2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 12
2 months after the date of the enactment of this Act
3 and annually thereafter, the Task Force shall submit
4 to the appropriate congressional committees and the
5 National Security Advisor a report containing a de-
6 tailed statement of the recommendations of the
7 Council pursuant to subsection (b).

8 (g) FACA.—Section 14(a)(2)(B) of the Federal Ad-
9 visory Committee Act shall not apply to the Task Force.
10 This task force shall be authorized for seven years after
11 the enactment of this Act, and up to an additional two
12 years at the discretion of the Task Force Chair.

13 **SEC. 7. PREVENTING OUTBREAKS OF ZOONOTIC DISEASES.**

14 (a) INTEGRATED ZOONOTIC DISEASES PROGRAM.—
15 There is authorized an integrated zoonotic diseases pro-
16 gram within the United States Agency for International
17 Development's global health security programs, led by the
18 Administrator, in consultation with the Director for the
19 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other rel-
20 evant Federal agencies, to prevent spillover events,
21 epidemics, and pandemics through the following activities:

22 (1) Partnering with a consortium that possesses
23 the following technical capabilities:

24 (A) Multidisciplinary zoological institution
25 with experience in global health surveillance,

1 combatting wildlife trafficking, and global con-
2 servation protected area management.

3 (B) Institutions of higher education with
4 veterinary and public health expertise.

5 (C) Institutions with public health exper-
6 tise.

7 (2) Implementing programs that expand on the
8 results of USAID emerging pandemic threat out-
9 comes from PREDICT and PREDICT-2 to
10 prioritize the following activities:

11 (A) Utilizing coordinated information and
12 data sharing platforms, including information
13 related to biosecurity threats, in ongoing and
14 future research.

15 (B) Conducting One Health zoonotic re-
16 search at human-wildlife interfaces.

17 (C) Conducting One Health research into
18 known and novel zoonotic pathogen detection.

19 (D) Conducting surveillance, including bio-
20 security surveillance, of priority and unknown
21 zoonotic diseases and the transmission of such
22 diseases.

23 (E) Preventing spillover events of zoonotic
24 diseases.

(F) Investing in frontline diagnostic capability at points of contact.

(G) Understanding global legal and illegal
wildlife trade routes, value chains, and the im-
pacts of biodiversity loss and land-use change
on human-wildlife interfaces.

(H) Utilizing existing One Health trained workforce in developing countries to identify high risk or reoccurring spillover event locations and concentrate capacity and functionality at such locations.

18 (b) TERMINATION.—The integrated zoonotic diseases
19 program authorized under this section shall terminate on
20 the date that is ten years after the date of the enactment
21 of this Act.

1 **SEC. 8. USAID MULTISECTORAL STRATEGY FOR FOOD SE-**
2 **CURITY, GLOBAL HEALTH, BIODIVERSITY,**
3 **AND REDUCING DEMAND FOR WILDLIFE FOR**
4 **HUMAN CONSUMPTION.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall develop,
6 and publish on a publicly accessible website, a multisec-
7 toral strategy for food security, global health, and bio-
8 diversity protection and shall include information about
9 zoonotic disease surveillance in the reports required by
10 section 406(b) of the Coronavirus Preparedness and Re-
11 sponse Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020.

12 (b) MULTISECTORAL STRATEGY.—The Adminis-
13 trator of the United States Agency for International De-
14 velopment (USAID), through sectoral and regional bu-
15 reaus, shall develop a multisectoral strategy to integrate
16 and mitigate risks of zoonotic disease emergence and
17 spread, food insecurity, biodiversity conservation, and
18 wildlife and habitat destruction. The strategy shall include
19 participation of the following:

- 20 (1) Bureau for Africa.
21 (2) Bureau for Asia.
22 (3) Bureau for Economic Growth, Education,
23 and Environment.
24 (4) Bureau for Global Health.
25 (5) Bureau for Latin America and the
26 Caribbean.

1 (6) Bureau for Resiliency, and Food Security.
2 (7) Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian As-
3 sistance Bureau.

4 (c) CONTENTS.—The USAID multisectoral strategy
5 developed pursuant to subsection (a) shall include—

6 (1) a statement of the United States intention
7 to facilitate international cooperation to close live
8 wildlife markets and end commercial wildlife trade
9 for human consumption, while ensuring full consid-
10 eration to the needs and rights of Indigenous Peo-
11 ples and local communities that are truly dependent
12 on wildlife for their food security;

13 (2) programs and objectives to change wildlife
14 consumers' behavior, attitudes and consumption de-
15 cisions;

16 (3) programs to increase supplies of sustainably
17 and locally produced alternative animal and plant
18 sourced foods;

19 (4) programs to protect, maintain and restore
20 ecosystem integrity;

21 (5) programs to ensure that countries are suffi-
22 ciently prepared to detect, report, and respond to
23 zoonotic disease spillover events;

1 (6) programs to prevent, prepare for, detect, re-
2 port, and respond to zoonotic disease spillover
3 events; and

4 (7) the identification of Landscape Leaders re-
5 siding in-country who will coordinate strategic imple-
6 mentation, the overseeing of Conservation Corps vol-
7 unteers, and coordination with donors and award re-
8 cipients throughout the term of the project.

9 **SEC. 9. IMPLEMENTATION OF MULTISECTORAL STRATEGY.**

10 (a) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—The USAID Multi-sectoral
11 Strategy shall be implemented—

12 (1) through USAID bilateral programs through
13 missions and embassies and will account for half of
14 the portfolio; and

15 (2) through demonstration projects that meet
16 the requirements of section 9(b) and account for
17 half of the portfolio.

18 (b) **DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.**—

19 (1) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of demonstration
20 projects is—

21 (A) to pilot the implementation of
22 USAID's multi-sectoral strategy by leveraging
23 the international commitments of the donor
24 community;

(B) to stop pandemics and reduce availability of and demand for fresh and live wildlife source foods;

(C) to establish and increase access to sustainably and locally produced animal and plant source foods and grain distribution to provide an alternative to the growing wild meat demand in urban, suburban, and exurban communities in particular; and

(D) to realize the greatest impact in low capacity forested countries with susceptibility to zoonotic spillover and spread that can lead to a pandemic.

14 (2) DEMONSTRATION PROJECT COUNTRY
15 PLANS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—USAID shall lead a collaborative effort in coordination with the Department of State, embassies of the United States, and the International Development Finance Corporation to consult with in-country stakeholder and participants in key forested countries to develop a plan that reflects the local needs and identifies measures of nutrition, yield gap analysis, global health safeguards, biodiversity protection, bushmeat demand reduc-

1 tion and consumer behavior change, and market
2 development progress, within 90 days of com-
3 pletion of the multi-sectoral strategy.

- 12 (i) recipient countries;
13 (ii) donors governments;
14 (iii) multilaterals institutions;
15 (iv) conservation organizations;
16 (v) One Health Institutions;
17 (vi) agricultural extension services;
18 (vii) domestic and international insti-
19 tutions of higher education;
20 (viii) food security experts;
21 (ix) United States grain and animal
22 protein production experts;
23 (x) social marketing and behavioral
24 change experts; and

(xi) financial institutions and micro-enterprise experts.

(3) CHANGE IN LIVELIHOODS.—As wildlife hunting for markets ends, multi-sectoral country plans shall include programs to re-train individuals in fundamental components of commercial animal source food production, including agriculture extension, veterinary care, sales and marketing, supply chains, transportation, livestock feed production, micro-enterprise, and market analysis.

11 (4) LOCATION OF DEMONSTRATION
12 PROJECTS.—Collaboration between United States
13 Government assistance and other donor investments
14 shall occur in five demonstration projects, at least
15 three of which shall be in Africa.

16 (5) TIMING.—Five demonstration projects shall
17 be selected and each shall be tested over four years
18 from the date of the enactment of this Act.

19 (c) REPORTING.—

1 strategy for food security, global health, biodiversity,
2 and reducing demand for wildlife for human con-
3 sumption required under this section. Data included
4 in each such report shall be disaggregated by coun-
5 try, and shall include recommendations to resolve,
6 mitigate, or otherwise address such challenges. Each
7 such report shall, to the extent possible, be made
8 publicly available.

9 (2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Administrator
10 must submit a strategy within one year of enactment
11 of this Act outlining the implementation of the coun-
12 try plans and identifying demonstration sites and
13 criteria for pilot programs. Four years after enact-
14 ment USAID will be required to submit a reassess-
15 ment of the strategy to Congress, as well as a rec-
16 ommendation as to whether and how to expand these
17 programs globally.

18 **SEC. 10. ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSERVATION CORPS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall establish
20 a Conservation Corps to provide Americans eligible for
21 service abroad, under conditions of hardship if necessary,
22 to deliver technical and strategic assistance to in-country
23 leaders of demonstration projects, stakeholders, and do-
24 nors implementing and financing the Multi-sectoral Strat-
25 egy to reduce demand for Wildlife for Human Consump-

1 tion through Food Security, Global Health, and Biodiver-
2 sity and related demonstration projects.

3 (b) PERSONS ELIGIBLE TO SERVE AS VOLUN-
4 TEERS.—The Administrator may enroll in the Conserva-
5 tion Corps for service abroad qualified citizens and nation-
6 als for short terms of service at the discretion of the Ad-
7 ministrator.

8 (c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Conservation Corps vol-
9 unteers will be responsible for—

10 (1) providing training to agricultural producers
11 to encourage participants to share and pass on to
12 other agricultural producers in the home commu-
13 nities of the participants, the information and skills
14 obtained from the training;

15 (2) identifying areas for the extension of addi-
16 tional technical resources through farmer-to-farmer
17 exchanges; and

18 (3) conducting assessments of individual
19 projects and bilateral strategies and recommend
20 knowledge management strategies toward building
21 programs to scale and strengthening projects.

